

Call to Artists

Winter Passages

Temporary Installations
Along the Alexandria, Va., Off Street Trail Network

Application Deadline: January 15, 2021

Summary

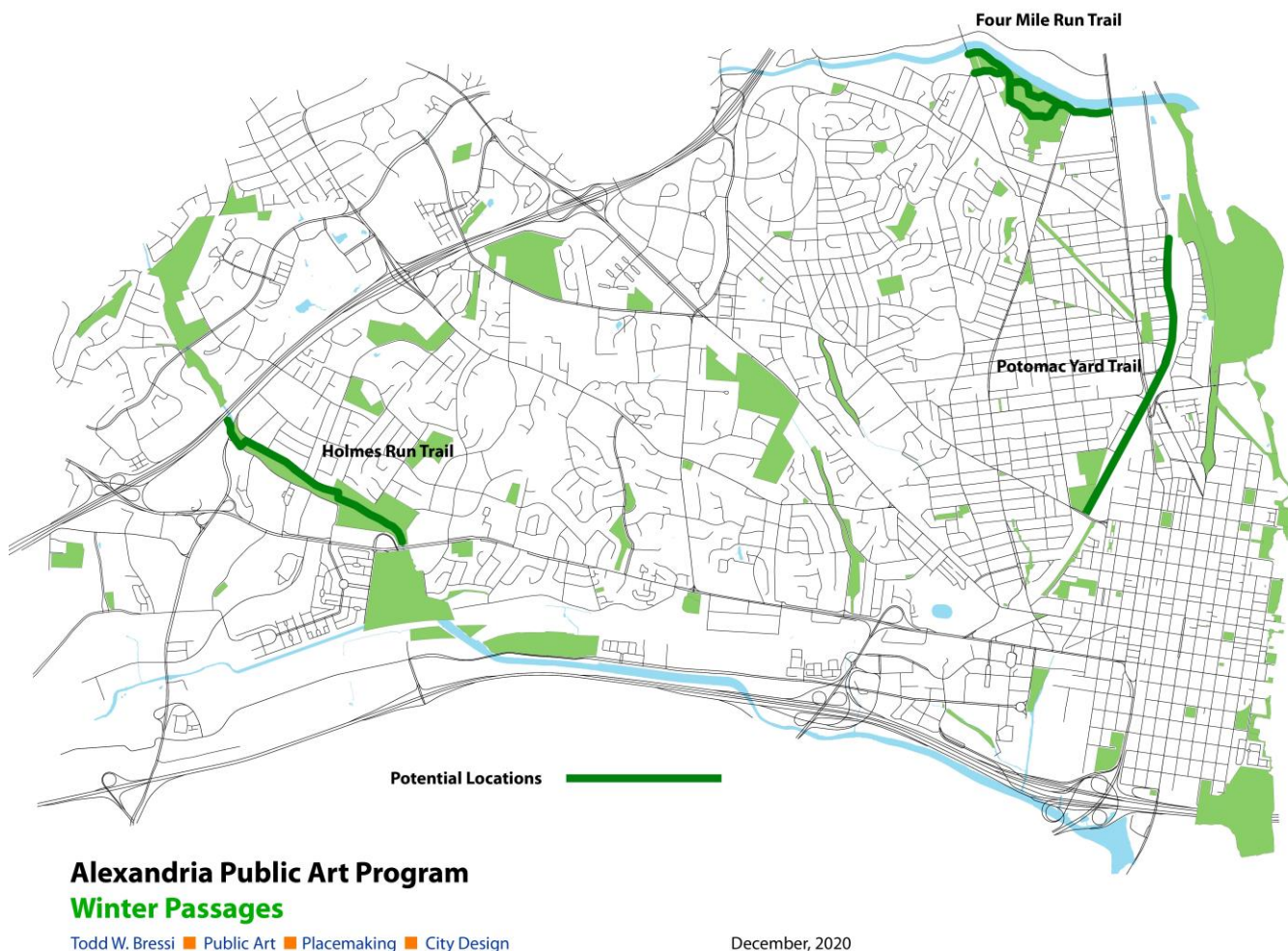
Alexandria's Public Art Program is inviting artists from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia to create original, temporary artworks for installation along key stretches of its off-street trail network.

The goal is to provide a sense of respite, discovery and fun during the dark, cold winter months for the hundreds of people who use these trails every day. Artworks should be easily installed and removed, and should consider highlighting phenomena such as ambient light and shadows, color and sound, breezes and other sensory aspects of the trail environments.

The program will commission up to three artists to create installations. Each artist will be provided with a budget of up to \$5,000 to design, fabricate, install and deinstall their artworks.

Artists will be selected during the week of January 11 and will have until March 5 to design, fabricate and install their artworks. The Public Art Program will provide technical support in obtaining site permissions and in the development of design and fabrication approaches.

For information submitting your qualifications, click [here](#) and skip to the instructions page.



Introduction and Background

Alexandria's off-street trail network covers 15.4 miles and with proposed extensions will one day cover 21 miles. The major trails are Four Mile Run, Potomac Yard, Old Cameron Run, Eisenhower Avenue, Backlick Run and Holmes Run. In addition, the Mt. Vernon Trail runs along land managed by the National Park Service.

Off-street trails connect the city's major parks as well as a wide variety of communities, from Arlandria and Potomac Yard to Old Town, from Cameron Run to Landmark and the West End. Altogether, these trails are envisioned to create one day a "green crescent" that connects the waterways that form Alexandria's boundaries and extend into the city along Holmes Run; they also provide regional connections to trails in Arlington and Fairfax.

Currently, the trails welcome a diverse group of users: commuters, recreational bicycling, walkers, joggers and people out to use exercise equipment along the way. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities would like to draw more attention to these trails as a resource, and attract more users.

This is the first public art project that will be undertaken along the trails since the adoption of the Public Art Implementation Plan, which was adopted in December, 2014 and the Alexandria Trails Public Art Plan was approved by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts in May, 2019.

About Alexandria's Public Art Program

Alexandria's Public Art Program has built a reputation for working with artists in innovative ways to realize new projects. The Program's vision is for public art to enrich the experience of Alexandria's past, celebrate the spirit of Alexandria's present and shape the identity of Alexandria's future.

Recent and current initiatives include:

- new permanent public art installations at in Eugene Simpson Park and at Lake Cook;
- *Site See: New Views in Old Town*, which each year showcases through new, exciting, high-quality contemporary artwork at Waterfront;
- a partnership with the Office of Historic Alexandria to curate the inaugural Time and Place exhibition, which commissioned three artists to explore the intersection of contemporary art with Alexandria's multifaceted history and resulted in temporary work for Gadsby's Tavern Museum that was named one of the year's best public artworks by Americans for the Arts;
- an artist residency with Alexandria Renew Enterprises (Alex Renew), the City's water resource recovery public utility, through which an artist is engaging with issues of water stewardship.

“Winter Passages” Project Description

“Winter Passages” will consist of three temporary installations, in various locations along the trails system, that heighten people’s awareness of the winter environment.

The project would build on the following guidance from the Trails Master Plan:

Provide an Array of Experiences

Public art should enhance people’s experience of using the trails. It is important to remember that different people are seeking different experiences, and that different types of experiences might be available and appropriate in different places. There, the goal over time is to provide an array of experiences in a variety of locations.

These are some of the experiences that public art could enhance:

- Contemplative / Quiet / Subtle Experiences
- Humorous / Whimsical / Playful Experiences
- Educational / Learning / Enriching Experiences
- Creative / Imaginative Thinking / Stimulating Experiences
- Connective / Shared / Community Experiences

Themes

These projects should focus on dynamic qualities of the environment, such as sky and light, wind and water flow, scents, growth cycles or the transitions of the seasons.

Materials

Consider manmade, natural, dynamic and ephemeral materials; consider projects work with wind, water, light and sound.

Goals

The overarching purpose for public art along Alexandria’s trails is for placemaking — to add qualities above and beyond the ordinary functional requirements of a trail, and to enhance trails as social, cultural and connective resources.

For the Winter Passages project, the specific goals are:

- allow people to engage with and experience the intrinsic environmental and sensory qualities trail environments during the winter
- illuminate some aspect of natural process or the natural environment that is unique to the winter
- provide opportunities for artists to build their experience in public art

Potential Sites

Priority consideration will be given to sites along the following trail segments:

- Four Mile Run: Between Mt. Vernon Avenue and Richmond Highway
- Potomac Yard: Between Braddock Road Metro and the Potomac Yard Metro construction site
- Holmes Run: Between the I-395 underpass and Duke Street underpass

Projects could be located on one site within these areas, or on multiple sites that provide for a sequential or connective experience within the above areas.

Projects must be situated in such a way that they do not hinder everyday use of the site, impede access, or damage the landscape. Projects must be installed in a manner that allows for easy removal and restoration of the site. Depending on the nature of the project, other restrictions or requirements may come into play.

Eligibility

This project is open to artists who live in Virginia, Maryland or Washington D.C. and who work in any medium appropriate to the site. Artists need not have completed traditional public art commissions to qualify.

The Artist understands that until the Work is accepted by the City, as evidenced by the Notice of Acceptance, and Final Payment is made to the Artist, any injury to property or persons caused by the Services shall be the sole liability of the Artist, and the City shall not provide the Artist with any insurance coverage against such risks.

Application Deadline

Friday, January 15 at 6p.m. EST

Concept Development Process

- Artists will be solicited through an open call RFQ.
- The call is be limited to artists Virginia, Maryland or the District of Columbia; those for whom travel to the site would be reasonable given the budget
- Artists will be paid part of their fee to develop a project. Artists will be able to work with public art staff, a public art consultant and an experienced public artist in developing their creative and technical approaches. The Office of the Arts will provide technical assistance in regard to the requirements of and permissions from City agencies.
- The artist will present their concept to the Task Force. If the concept is approved, the artist will be paid a fee to install the project.
- Artists will be responsible for removing their artwork, at which time a final fee payment will be made.

Artist Selection Criteria

Three artists will be selected by a Task Force based on qualifications and a letter of interest. Applicants must demonstrate the following qualifications:

- Artistic merit of body of work
- Strong conceptual skill with innovative and effective approaches demonstrated in other creative projects
- Ability to design engaging artwork that is appropriate for the location
- Interest in addressing the specific conceptual goals of the project
- Ability and willingness to collaborate with City staff, design and engineering professional, stakeholders and contractors
- Probability of successful execution and completion of project
- Appropriateness of qualifications for the project
- Effective communication and organizational skills
- Completeness of application

Additional Information

- Artists who have not made public art will be encouraged to apply if they have experience as a working artist as evidenced by their portfolio or an equivalent degree.
- Selected artist will be required to sign a contract with the City of Alexandria.

Anticipated Timeline

Applications due: Friday, January 15
Artist finalists notified: Friday, January 22
Final Concepts due: Monday, February 8
Concepts Approved: Tuesday, February 16
Art installed: February 17 through March 5
Unveiling: Saturday, March 6

Budget

Each artist will receive a budget of up to \$5,000 to include design, installation, and fabrication in addition to required meetings with staff and the community.

How to Apply

Please send us the following materials by **6 p.m. on January 15, 2021**:

- Application Sheet (see attached) A brief letter that describes your interest in the project and what ideas you would like to explore and confirms your availability to meet the project timeline;
- A short artist statement;
- A CV/resume;
- Contact information for three references;
- Up to 10 jpeg images of previous artwork. Artwork with sound or motion may be submitted as short MP4 files or web links to video or sound files;
- A corresponding image list with title, medium, dimensions, brief description, location, date of work, commissioning entity and budget; and

An application check list is available to ensure your application is complete. Applications submitted prior to the deadline will be eligible for completion prior to the deadline. No changes or updates to the application can be made after the deadline.

Please do not send specific proposals at this time.

Winter Passages Application Checklist

Application Deadline: Friday, January 15 at 6 p.m.

Please complete this checklist and submit as the cover sheet of your application.

Lead Artist's Name:

Additional Artist Team Members, if any:

Address:

Email Address:

Phone:

Webpage:

Instagram:

I HAVE ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING:

A short written response

A CV or resume (up to 2 pages per artist)

A current artist statement

Up to 10 images of past completed work that you consider relevant to this project

Image list

Contact information for up to three references

Submission Instructions

Please **email** your materials to:

City of Alexandria Office of the Arts

arts@alexandriava.gov

If your files are too large to email, please email a link to a file sharing service such as Dropbox, WeShare, etc. We will reply with an acknowledgement of all submissions it receives.

If you have any questions, please submit them via email to arts@alexandriava.gov and a member of the project team will reply.